



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICAN MAN CHARGED WITH TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mexican man was charged in federal court today with transporting illegal aliens.

Salomon Macedonio-Vergara, 23, a citizen of Mexico, was charged with transporting undocumented aliens in a criminal complaint filed this morning in U.S. District Court in Springfield, Mo.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the federal criminal complaint, a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper stopped a 1995 GMC Safari driven by **Macedonio-Vergara** for traffic violations shortly after 10 p.m. on Feb. 13, 2004, on eastbound U.S. Highway 60, west of the city of Dunn in Texas County, Mo. **Macedonio-Vergara** and 11 undocumented aliens were taken into custody by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the affidavit says, after it was determined that they were in the United States illegally.

The illegal aliens were allegedly being transported from Phoenix, Ariz., to Lexington, Ken.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the complaint is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow